United Nations E/2016/SR.25

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 June 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Second coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 25th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 1 June 2016, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions

(c) Statistics

(i) Cartography

(d) Human settlements

(k) Assistance to third States affected by the applications of sanctions

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Agenda item 10: The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-08868 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions

(c) Statistics (E/2016/24)

1. **Ms. Bivar** (Brazil), Chair of the Statistical Commission, speaking via video link from Brazil, introduced the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/2016/24). Reviewing the outcome of the most recent session, held from 8 to 11 March 2016 in New York, she said that the Commission had worked intensively over the previous year on developing a global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators that it had established at its forty-sixth session. Developing those indicators had been an inclusive and transparent process, had involved a large number of stakeholders and had been led by statistical experts from Member States. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission had agreed with the proposed global indicator framework as a practical starting point, although it had recognized that the development of a robust and high-quality framework remained an ongoing process. It had emphasized that the 230 proposed indicators were intended for global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and were not necessarily applicable to all national contexts, and had stressed that national ownership remained key to achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, national reviews were voluntary and country-led, they would take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and they would respect policy space and priorities for all countries. Improving data disaggregation was fundamental for the full implementation of the indicator framework and to fully respect the principle of leaving no one behind. Going forward, countries would have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which would require accessible, appropriate and high-quality data. Implementing the indicator framework would be a challenge in many countries and capacity-building would be particularly important in developing countries, especially African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

2. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was preparing a global action plan for sustainable development data, and had decided to organize a United Nations World Data Forum to facilitate the discussion of such data. The High-level Group and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group had also established a joint subgroup to address the specific data needs identified during preparation of the indicators and to ensure that both groups worked together in an effective and coordinated manner. At its third meeting, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group had decided to work on data disaggregation and to create three thematic working subgroups on geospatial information, on standard data and metadata exchange, and on interlinkages between the indicators and targets. In that regard, she highlighted the importance of geospatial information for the 2030 Agenda and welcomed the work being done by the United Nations through the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group would continue its work on the basis of the road map agreed at its third meeting, which outlined the main steps required to finalize the tier system, to refine the indicators where necessary and to review the indicator framework in the coming years, as requested by the Commission. Meanwhile, the statistical community was already working intensively to compile the available data, thereby ensuring that all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets would be appropriately reviewed and the data effectively used for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

3. **Ms. Regueira** (Observer for Cuba) said that while the global indicator framework was a significant starting point, it would require further technical refinement. Progress should continue to take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development. It would also require sufficient policy space for the development of follow-up indicators at the regional and national levels; a central role for national statistical offices in providing official data and drafting national follow-up reports on the Sustainable Development Goals and targets; the use of transparent methodologies and high-quality, timely, verifiable and reliable data; and the building of

statistical capacity, particularly in developing countries.

4. As recognized in the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1), in several cases, not all the multiple aspects of the targets were addressed by the indicators and, in such cases, the statistical community would need to identify indicators to complement the existing ones. Indicator 3.5.2 in particular required further adjustments, since its current wording reduced the scope of application of target 3.5 and was in fact a biased version of what had been agreed by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the harmful use of alcohol. In that regard WHO had recognized that the focus should not be on consumption per se, but rather on harmful consumption. Using per capita consumption as the only indicator was inadequate as it did not differentiate between moderate and harmful consumption, or indicate and therefore address consumption outside the legal age limits. The indicator currently failed to recognize that WHO and its governing bodies had primary responsibility for establishing international health regulations, standards and goals. It also restricted the freedom of Member States to adopt more suitable and comprehensive policies to address the harmful consumption of alcohol.

5. While the global indicator framework was the linchpin for all that Member States hoped to achieve over the next 15 years, its limitations could harm the proper implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Further work was therefore urgently required, with the involvement and cooperation of all countries, to produce a framework that faithfully reflected the desired outcomes of the 2030 Agenda, as part of the quest for a fairer and more equitable international order.

6. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Observer for Mexico), noting the importance of the series of indicators drawn up by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, said that Mexico, which had served as Co-Chair of the Group, wished to acknowledge the leading role played by its National Institute of Statistics and Geography and reaffirmed its commitment to working jointly with other stakeholders to implement and review the 2030 Agenda. Mexico would continue to share its experiences and lessons learned regarding the collection of data and the generation of reliable and verifiable statistics.

Draft decision: Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

7. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-eighth session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/2016/24).

8. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(i) Cartography (E/2015/46 and E/2016/47; E/CONF.104/9)

9. **Mr. Ocampo** (Observer for Mexico), Co-Chair of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, introducing the report of the Committee of Experts (E/2015/46), said that, at its fifth session, the Committee had discussed, inter alia, the critical role of geospatial information management and the need for strengthened collaboration and joint initiatives to advance the development and use of geospatial data and tools to support sustainable development and related global agendas. The Committee invited the Council to approve the provisional agenda, dates and documentation for the sixth session of the Committee, as set out in its report.

10. Introducing the programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts (E/2016/47), he said that the review report, which had been prepared in response to the request contained in Council resolution 2011/24, highlighted the Committee's considerable achievements to date and showed that it was well placed to continue contributing to the work of the United Nations, especially in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It provided a welcome and unique opportunity for the Council to strengthen the mandate and coordination of the global geospatial community through the Council's subsidiary machinery in the field of geospatial information.

11. At its fifth session, in decision 5/113, the Committee had agreed that a call for strengthening its mandate was appropriate and needed. Furthermore, the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific had adopted a resolution, contained in the report of the Conference (E/CONF.104/9), in which it supported the mandate of

the Committee of Exerts to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the United Nations, agreed that the formal United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference format was no longer a requirement, and recommended that the United Nations should consider removing the Conference for Asia and the Pacific from its calendar of conferences and meetings. Its mandates and obligations would be assumed by the Committee of Experts at the global level, and its technical and substantive activities at the regional level would be assumed by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific. A similar conclusion had been reached for the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas by United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas at its second plenary meeting.

12. In order to reach a broad consensus and agreement on the Committee's recommendations, including its future working methods and scope of work, a resolution would now need to be submitted to the Council to address the Committee's request to strengthen its position in coordinating the field of global geospatial information management within Member States and the broader United Nations system. Mexico would facilitate the negotiating process to that end over the coming weeks. Programme budget implications were likely, even though the Committee had striven to keep them to a minimum by streamlining regional cartographic conferences.

13. **Ms. Hua** Ye (China) said that the Committee of Experts provided a useful platform for cooperation among countries in the field of global geospatial information management and for strengthened capacity-building in developing countries. As one of the principal initiators of United Nations activities related to global geospatial information management, China had actively participated in the development of the Committee of Experts, had helped finance the establishment of a United Nations trust fund for capacity-building in global geospatial information management for developing countries, and stood ready to work with other Member States to actively study the relevant recommendations contained in the review report.

14. **Mr. Aguirre Vacchieri** (Chile) said that his delegation had also played an active part in the work of the Committee of Experts, which it had fully supported since 2011, and was very open to considering the proposal referred to by the Co-Chair of that Committee in view of the need to improve the coordination and management of geospatial information.

15. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Observer for Mexico), highlighting the central role played by Mexico in global geospatial management capacity-building in developing countries and in the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, said that a way must be found to provide sustainable funding so that the Committee of Experts could fulfil its objective of supporting Member States, particularly developing countries, and the United Nations system, in following up on the 2030 Agenda and the other priorities related to geospatial management. The Organization needed to be able to regulate geospatial information, which was at present generated by various bodies within the United Nations system. Her delegation therefore supported the proposal to strengthen the Committee of Experts.

Draft decision: Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session and provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee

16. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session and provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Committee of Experts on its fifth session (E/2015/46).

17. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Human settlements (E/2016/54)

18. **Ms. Djacta** (United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2016/54), said that with the world's urban population projected to rise to 6.5 billion by 2050, sustainable development would be impossible without transforming the way urban spaces were built and managed. Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda constituted recognition of cities as catalysts for development.

19. The report provided a description of the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in cooperation with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations

system at the global, regional and national levels. In particular, the Programme had contributed to preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which should result in a global commitment to sustainable urbanization through a new urban agenda. She encouraged all Member States to participate actively in the preparatory process for that Conference.

20. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat had prepared the World Cities Report 2015, which would serve as a background document for Habitat III. UN-Habitat had continued to chair the High-level Committee on Programmes working group on a new United Nations urban agenda. The working group's draft report and draft joint statement on urbanization and sustainable development had recently been approved by the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

21. The World Urban Campaign, an instrumental means of promoting urbanization issues and solutions, had grown considerably in terms of visibility and membership. The Campaign had launched a General Assembly of Partners as a deliberative platform for non-governmental partners for the Habitat III Conference.

22. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat had continued to participate actively in the Sustainable Development Goals process and was currently preparing a toolkit for local implementation of the Goals, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

23. Based on a UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution, the League of Arab States-affiliated Arab Council of Ministers of Housing and Construction had established the Arab Ministerial Forum of Housing and Urban Development, with a view to addressing housing and sustainable development challenges in the Arab region. The first forum had been held in Egypt in December 2015, culminating in the adoption by the Arab countries of the Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.

24. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat had also cooperated with United Nations system organizations and other partners in implementing a range of activities. UN-Habitat continued to develop the City Prosperity Initiative, a global monitoring framework for the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda that was the expected outcome of the Habitat III Conference. The Initiative was being implemented in more than 300 cities. The September 2015 roll-out of the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Marker had been a landmark achievement in gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women.

25. Lastly, she drew attention to paragraph 117 of the report, which contained four recommendations for consideration by Member States.

26. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that, overall, the United States supported the work of UN-Habitat and many of the principles, approaches and projects in the report under consideration, including the priority given by UN-Habitat to partnering with local governments and their associations. In order to be most effective, UN-Habitat should find ways to partner with and empower local governments, communities and constituents instead of taking on more projects or broadening its scope. The most effective community planning and development came from local governments working directly with citizens and receiving wide support from other organizations, such as UN-Habitat and non-profit organizations. Her delegation also encouraged the integration of the Sendai Framework and related recommendations into urban planning and community development, including in the planning and implementation of UN-Habitat projects. However, UN-Habitat should not necessarily have to own such implementation, and funding the Programme for that purpose was not necessarily the most effective or efficient way to integrate the Sendai Framework.

27. The City Prosperity Initiative and UN-Habitat capacity-building work should take into account the complementary related efforts of private sector, non-governmental and governmental organizations to promote collaboration, fill data gaps and build local demand and capacity for analysing and using data. Those efforts should be integrated into national and subnational planning and development processes, including at the city level. While the City Prosperity Initiative could play a useful role in aggregating and integrating those efforts, especially to feed into United Nations-driven global monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, it should not purport to supplant or subsume them, but rather should encourage and support grassroots work by diverse stakeholders.

28. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data was building a global ecosystem and marketplace for the collection, analysis and use of data at the national and local levels. In that context, the United States strongly encouraged UN-Habitat not only to engage with the Global Partnership in developing and defining the role of the City Prosperity Initiative but also to lend its constructive expertise to building the data capacity of diverse stakeholders in order to implement and monitor those Sustainable Development Goals that were relevant to urban and subnational issues.

29. Identifying data gaps and building data collection, analysis and usage capacity at the subnational level was critical not only in order to monitor and advance the Sustainable Development Goals, but also to support decision-making, priority-setting and the development of innovative solutions to challenges.

30. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Observer for Mexico) said that her delegation supported the adoption of the report. Strengthening programme governance would be fundamental to ensuring the coherence of efforts by UN-Habitat and other agencies to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11. Her Government, which had established a new ministry on territorial and urban policies, had sponsored two preparatory meetings for the Habitat III Conference and was currently formulating national legislation to be adopted before the Conference. Mexico was committed to ensuring that the necessary agreements were reached at the Conference to establish a new model of urban development, to tackle urbanization challenges and to make cities more prosperous.

(k) Assistance to third States affected by the applications of sanctions

31. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under the sub-item and no draft proposal was before the Council.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2016/73 and E/2016/L.15/Rev.1)

Requests from non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council

32. **The President** drew attention to the requests from non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council (E/2016/73). The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to recommend that the organizations mentioned in that document should be heard by the Council at the high-level segment of its 2016 session. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the Committee's recommendation.

33. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision E/2016/L.15/Rev.1: Economic and Social Council event to discuss the transition from relief to development

34. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

35. *Draft decision E/2016/L.15/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 10: The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*) (A/71/76-E/2016/55)

36. **Ms. Zubcevic** (Division for Sustainable Development), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/71/76-E/2016/55), said that the signing in 2015 of the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement had given added urgency to the need to mainstream approaches to sustainable development throughout the United Nations system.

37. The report built on the three progress reports submitted since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and provided an update on milestones and preparatory steps taken, focusing on the work done by the United Nations system to maximize system-wide coordinated action and coherence in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Specific illustrations of those efforts included a study of the steps taken by UN-Water to address the water-energy-food nexus and an examination of the development-humanitarian nexus as an emerging approach for cross-disciplinary system-wide integration. Moreover, the report delineated the

United Nations system's institutional framework for follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

38. She drew attention to paragraph 62 of the report, which contained a set of recommendations for the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

United Nations E/2016/SR.26

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 June 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Second coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 26th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 1 June 2016, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-08869 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (A/71/76-E/2016/55; E/2016/33)

1. **Ms. Fukuda-Parr** (Vice-Chair of the Committee for Development Policy), introducing the report on the eighteenth session of the Committee for Development Policy (E/2016/33), said that the report addressed the following main issues: expanding productive capacity in least developed countries; official support for sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and monitoring the development progress of graduated and graduating countries. Since the Committee would provide recommendations on promoting capacity for sustainable development during the Council's high-level segment in July 2016, she would address only those issues related to development finance and the classification of least developed countries.

2. She recalled that in 2012 the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had begun to review the definitions and reporting criteria for development finance with a view to modernizing the definition of official development assistance (ODA), improving the accuracy and comparability of reporting, and introducing new and broader measures of financing for development. The data collected would help to increase the impact of development cooperation through better leveraging of public and private resources.

3. New reporting criteria for ODA had also been adopted in 2014 and 2016, and would become standard in 2018, and the discussions under way on a new measure of development financing, provisionally called "total official support for sustainable development", were expected to conclude in 2016. Nevertheless, she emphasized that the United Nations had not yet endorsed the proposed new metric for monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda, pending an open, inclusive and transparent discussion by Member States.

4. In the meantime, the following constituted key developments to date: in the calculation of ODA, henceforth only the grant element would be taken into account in the measurement of loans, and new differentiated discount rates and thresholds had been defined for estimating the grant equivalent; the ODA reporting directives on peace and security expenditures had been updated to clarify the inclusion of expenditures involving the military and the police, as well as activities aimed at preventing violent extremism; and the official provision of private sector instruments, such as equity, credit enhancements and guarantees, would now be counted as ODA, while the flows generated by such efforts would be counted as total official support for sustainable development.

5. The new measure of total official support for sustainable development was intended to reflect the broadening of the global development agenda and financing sources that extended beyond the historical concept and definition of ODA, including non-concessional official funds, expenditures related to climate change, environment sustainability and other public goods.

6. While the efforts of the Development Assistance Committee to enhance resource mobilization for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were welcome, concerns remained about the risks and uncertainties of developing a new metric of development cooperation, especially the potential dilution of already existing financial commitments for development. Member States and OECD member States must therefore agree on several critical issues, including why a new measurement was necessary rather than an improved metric; how to engage emerging development partners and other stakeholders; and how to guarantee that the perspectives of both providers and recipients were reflected in the definition of development aid.

7. In its report the Committee had elaborated on the key principles that should form the basis of any new framework for financing for development. In particular, such a framework should preserve the development purpose of its components and include only cross-border flows. Moreover, it should be clearly understood that the new framework was a complement to, and not a substitute for, existing ODA commitments.

8. In that regard, the Committee had recommended that the Council should reiterate the call for donors to meet their ODA commitments and for ODA to be reported separately from other flows. The Committee

had also recommended that Member States, particularly developing countries and new providers, should be involved in all deliberations on any new framework under conditions of full transparency and inclusivity. Furthermore, the Council should facilitate the process of drawing up the new framework through the Development Cooperation Forum.

9. Turning to the least developed country issues examined in the report, she noted that the Committee had reviewed the development progress of Equatorial Guinea and Vanuatu, earmarked for graduation in June 2017 and December 2020, respectively, and of Samoa, which had graduated in 2014.

10. Equatorial Guinea continued to experience a significant imbalance between its high level of per capita income and its low human assets. The Committee had therefore advised that country to formulate and implement a transition strategy that would proactively address the need to strengthen human assets and reduce economic vulnerability.

11. While the Committee had welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/78 on the extension of the preparatory period preceding the graduation of Vanuatu from the least developed country category, following the impact of Cyclone Pam in 2015, the country's susceptibility to recurring natural disasters remained a matter of concern.

12. For its part, Samoa was already implementing its post-graduation transition strategy and continued to achieve steady development progress despite its high vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks. It was important for the international community to continue to provide such vulnerable countries with concessional financing for climate change adaptation following graduation. The Committee had therefore recommended that the economic vulnerability index should be used for the allocation of climate finance, independent of least developed country status.

13. Since some graduating and graduated countries faced significant challenges and uncertainties in addressing the consequences of the loss of preferential market access, the Committee had recommended that the Council should invite trading partners of least developed countries to facilitate the phasing out of least developed country-specific trade preferences for a period appropriate for the development situation of those countries, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/221.

14. As the number of least developed countries that became eligible for graduation increased, it became crucial to improve their understanding of the type of specific support to which they had access and the policy implications of the possible reduction of such support after graduation. The Committee had therefore reviewed a proposal for developing a toolkit to assist least developed countries in better preparing for graduation, including by facilitating the gathering and sharing of information among national and international stakeholders and assessing the importance of the support measures for those countries' development progress. The toolkit should facilitate least developed countries' efforts to understand and address the possible reduction of international support, lessen the uncertainty surrounding graduation and therefore keep their development trajectory on a sustainable path.

15. Lastly, the Committee had proposed that its secretariat should further develop the toolkit by taking into account the inputs from and needs expressed by least developed countries. That proposal had been well received by least developed countries and development partners alike at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, held recently in Antalya, Turkey.

16. **Ms. Bravo** (Observer for Mexico) said that a number of countries had begun to estimate the challenges involved in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The European Commission, for instance, had identified implementation difficulties in some European countries as a result of a lack of investment, unemployment, migration flows and income distribution challenges. With regard to national implementation efforts, the Council should use the high-level political forum on sustainable development to share experiences and best practices and identify opportunities for South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation.

17. Finally, while the Council had shown interest in addressing specific issues in the context of the 2030 Agenda, such as food security, sustainable cities, health and education, she emphasized that the Sustainable Development Goals remained indivisible and interdependent.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations E/2016/SR.27

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 June 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Second coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 2 June 2016, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(j) Women and development

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-08984 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2016/57 and E/2016/L.17)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions

(j) Women and development

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women (E/2016/12 and E/2016/27)

1. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil), Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, introducing the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session (E/2016/27), said that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls were central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Commission had adopted agreed conclusions on its priority theme, "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development", which would contribute to the work of the Council and help the United Nations support gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission had also adopted a multi-year programme of work, which set out the priority and review themes for 2017-2019. In selecting the themes, the Commission had ensured synergies with the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In considering its review theme, "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls", the Commission had, for the first time, heard voluntary national presentations, on lessons learned, challenges and best practices, and means of accelerating such elimination and prevention. The Commission was committed to supporting the Council to ensure that the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda benefited all women and girls and helped achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. No woman or girl could be left behind.

2. **Ms. Puri** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2016/57), said that the international community had a unique opportunity to advance an agenda aimed at gender equality and mainstreaming the gender perspective. Gender mainstreaming was essential to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations system had been called upon to support not only the achievement of Goal 5, which was directly related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, but a gender-responsive approach to all the Goals and associated targets. Since 2012, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women had improved performance in the area of gender mainstreaming and had resulted in a clearer picture of strengths and challenges. Though good progress had been made in coherence, policy and plan, and staff capacities and training, the greatest challenges were the slow pace of change and the poor performance in gender architecture and parity.

Panel discussion: "Leveraging United Nations system coordination and accountability to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"

3. **Ms. Puri** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), moderator, said that United Nations system coordination and accountability was essential to empowering women and thus to eradicating poverty, eliminating inequalities, sustaining economic growth and achieving sustainable development. Historic pledges in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women had been made in 2015, and there was a strong commitment to the accelerated achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and to gender-responsive implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda. Gender mainstreaming was a prerequisite for such implementation, and the United Nations needed to consider how it could best support Member States. The United Nations system must be accountable for its support of gender mainstreaming at the corporate and country levels; it was also important for Member States to benefit from United Nations experience in their implementation of the gender equality compact.

4. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiolea** (Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations), panellist, said that gender was a component of all the Sustainable Development Goals and must be a cross-cutting theme in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A stand-alone goal on gender equality was not enough. Gender mainstreaming was one of the three cross-cutting priorities of the national development plan of Mexico. UN-Women helped countries to develop cross-cutting policies and to implement the Agenda by mainstreaming gender in normative frameworks, national development plans, programmes and, in particular, statistical systems, since statistics disaggregated by gender and age were essential to monitoring national progress. The United Nations must ensure that gender was mainstreamed and indicators were developed to make women and girls a priority in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

5. His delegation was concerned about the General Assembly draft resolution on follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, currently being negotiated, which would result within three years in the fragmentation of the Agenda's implementation. Such fragmentation would be a serious mistake that ran counter to the System-wide Action Plan.

6. The Global Knowledge Platform to End Violence against Women had been established to monitor progress towards the Goals and targets. It comprised the Global Database on Violence against Women, which contained up-to-date information on the measures taken by Governments to address such violence. The Platform should be linked to such regional mechanisms as the Follow-up Mechanism to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.

7. One of the main challenges for UN-Women was to raise awareness regarding such vulnerable groups as women who suffered from multiple, cross-sectoral forms of discrimination. Such groups exemplified the unevenness of progress towards gender equality, and their profile should be raised through policies and programmes.

8. UN-Women should coordinate not only with ministries for women but with all ministries, to ensure that it supported not only gender equality and women's empowerment but all human rights. Such action would support the production of disaggregated statistics and national gender indicators. Cooperation with the private sector should be encouraged, to mobilize resources and build partnerships with other actors. Furthermore, the budget of UN-Women should be discussed in light of the commitments made in recent multilateral agreements, and consideration should be given to the role of the Entity in reviewing the budgets of United Nations agencies that assigned a relatively small percentage of their budgets to gender.

9. With regard to accountability, UN-Women and the United Nations should promote the use by Member States of open data, which fostered transparency and citizen participation. Mexico had established an online portal through which open data generated by the Government could be downloaded and freely used, thus ensuring transparency in public expenditure and programmes and making it possible to monitor advances in gender mainstreaming. Transparency was particularly important in budgetary matters, as resources must be assigned in order to translate declarations of intent into concrete achievements. Open data would lead to better monitoring of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and national progress.

10. **Ms. Johannson** (Gender Adviser, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)), panellist, said that UNFPA had been a key partner in the development and implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and gender mainstreaming remained its primary strategy for achieving such equality and empowerment. UNFPA had integrated indicators from the System-wide Action Plan in its own strategic plan and had further developed the concept of the gender marker for tracking the proportion of its investments in programmes and countries that was allocated to achieving gender equality.

11. For the System-wide Action Plan to have a transformative impact, it should not be implemented in parallel with agencies' other projects; rather, it should be fully integrated into an agency or programme's planning and monitoring framework. The System-wide Action Plan had propelled all United Nations agencies in the same direction and had been groundbreaking for coordination; within a few years, it had managed to bring agencies together and break down silos. For the first time, common goals had been agreed upon, progress had been measured against benchmarks and agencies could be held accountable. The Plan thus kept the United Nations system focused on gender equality

and mainstreaming. It also served as a network through which partners working to advance gender equality could share best practices. It had been successful because it was driven by committed focal points across the United Nations system, and it had resulted in greater engagement of the system with gender equality and the empowerment of women.

12. Coordination required resources; the System-wide Action Plan had brought consistency and focus to gender mainstreaming thanks to dedicated funds. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, it was even more critical to ensure that gender was mainstreamed across agencies and across the Agenda, which would require leadership, a network of committed staff and resources.

13. The System-wide Action Plan could be adapted at the national level. UNFPA would support the planned second system-wide action plan, which would take into account the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. **Mr. Seck** (Research and Data Policy Specialist, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), panellist, said that the 2030 Agenda emphasized most of the critical domains for achieving gender equality. However, it could not be implemented without an effective monitoring system, which required a robust and integrated evidence base. Gender-related policies could not be formulated without data and statistics, as the United Nations had recognized. Over the preceding decade, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics had improved information-sharing and coordination and had contributed to the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. In terms of challenges, Goal 5 comprised 14 indicators, only three of which could currently be monitored. Regarding the other 11, either insufficient data were available or there was no way to measure them. In addition, 40 gender-sensitive indicators relating to other Sustainable Development Goals would require monitoring. The underlying problem was the limited and fragmented funding of gender statistics, both nationally and globally. According to the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, only 2 per cent of aid for the production of statistics was spent on gender statistics projects in 2013. UN-Women had developed programming tools to improve coordination across the United Nations system. The challenges were to reduce fragmentation, avoid the duplication of effort and provide countries with technical support.

16. **Ms. Puri** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that UN-Women and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had committed to investing $80 million in closing gender data gaps and accelerating progress for women and girls. She asked the panellists to identify the greatest obstacles facing the United Nations system in providing the coordination and accountability needed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

17. **Ms. Johannson** (Gender Adviser, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) said that sustained commitment was essential to coordination and accountability. Thanks to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, many opportunities existed for the systematic integration of gender equality in the monitoring of indicators at the country level. Processes needed to be more closely linked to results and to the Agenda. National capacity to develop and implement policies that drove change, together with national ownership of the Agenda, must be strengthened.

18. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, said that the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women was essential in the struggle to break down silos. Nevertheless, dialogue and communication remained important and Member States should reinforce that message. At the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, an interactive dialogue with the chairs and vice-chairs of the functional commissions of the Council had been held, and it would be useful to organize a similar exercise for the secretariats of those commissions.

19. **Mr. Seck** (Research and Data Policy Specialist, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that the main challenges were a lack of political will to produce data regarding gender equality; significant technical capacity gaps in such areas of gender statistics as the measurement of violence against women and time use; and lack of access to data, which meant that even when data were produced, they were not necessarily used to

inform policymaking. The fragmentation and duplication of effort also required attention.

20. **Mr. Holtz** (United Kingdom) said that the Commission on the Status of Women was an essential negotiating body. Although progress had been made in implementing the System-wide Action Plan, the reporting requirements would not be met by the target date of 2017. Greater coordination across the United Nations system was needed and more women must be appointed to decision-making positions; Member States looked to the Organization for guidance and it therefore needed to follow best practice, which included gender parity. He requested further information regarding the ways in which the second system-wide action plan would differ from the first, and how it would be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. Lastly, civil society must be involved at every stage of the process if no one was to be left behind.

21. **Ms. Puri** (Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that the first System-wide Action Plan had focused on measuring performance, while the second would concentrate on measuring results and impact. Alignment with the 2030 Agenda would be essential; policies and programmes would need to be based on the Sustainable Development Goals.

22. **Ms. Mehrotra** (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that the second system-wide action plan was currently under development and the country-level scorecard was being updated. The second plan would be more closely aligned than the first with the scorecard, and weaknesses would be addressed. With regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, broad indicators that would cover the entire spectrum of mandates were being incorporated into the second plan. Each entity would then be asked to align its policies with the Goals relevant to its work and to report specifically on the implementation of Goal 5. Concerns regarding gender parity within the United Nations system were frequently raised by States and by UN-Women. However, progress towards gender parity was affected by such variables as attrition, retirements and invisible biases. In response, the United Nations system had been encouraged to do more, in particular by providing more real-time data.

23. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) had established, at its thirty-sixth session, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to follow up on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Documentation provided by the ECLAC secretariat had highlighted that equality was essential to economic growth, which must in turn be reflected in more equal societies. The discussions at the meeting had emphasized that Sustainable Development Goal 5 and Goal 10, "Reduced inequalities", were inextricably linked.

Draft resolution E/2016/L.17: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

24. **The President** said that the resolution contained no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2016/L.17 was adopted.

25. **Mr. Holtz** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had participated on behalf of the European Union in the negotiation of the draft resolution, which would give UN-Women the tools necessary to implement the System-wide Action Plan.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixtieth session (E/2016/27)

26. The President invited the Council to take action, under agenda item 19, "Social and human rights questions", sub-item (a), "Advancement of women", on the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections B and C, of the report.

Section B

Draft resolution I: Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

27. *Draft resolution I was adopted.*

Draft resolution II: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

28. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso,

Chile, China, Congo, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Against:

Australia, United States of America

Abstaining:

Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

29. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 27 votes to 2, with 19 abstentions.*

30. **Ms. Rasheed** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that Israeli violations and intransigence had dramatically reduced hopes of a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The occupying Power had violated all the rights of the defenceless Palestinian people, including the rights to life and self-determination. The resolution sent a strong message of solidarity and reaffirmed that Israeli policies towards the Palestinian people and their land were illegal and that the occupying Power must be held accountable. The delegations that had voted in favour had shown themselves to be true supporters of peace by firmly demanding respect for the law and for human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. A just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, at the centre of which were the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and freedom in an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, was the only way in which peace, security and coexistence would become a reality for Palestinian and Israeli people.

Section C

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixtieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission

31. *The draft decision was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11:55 a.m.

United Nations E/2016/SR.28

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Second coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 28th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 2 June 2016, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(f) Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Social development

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-08985 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(f) Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (E/2016/53 and E/2016/L.16)

1. **Mr. Obermeyer** (World Health Organization, (WHO)), introducing the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (E/2016/53), said that the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, established in 2013, currently had approximately 30 members, with the number of members increasing every year. Non-communicable diseases were the cause of over 16 million premature deaths annually. The United Nations was stepping up support to countries to address the issue of non-communicable diseases, and countries were increasing prevention efforts.

2. As tobacco control was central to the efforts of the Task Force, the joint programming missions were increasingly conducted in concert with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control needs assessment missions. Non-communicable diseases were becoming a more important component of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, but national progress remained insufficient. Faster and deeper action was required in order to meet General Assembly commitments made in 2011 and 2014. In late 2017, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) would provide a report to the General Assembly on countries' progress, as measured against a set of indicators whose baseline had been released in 2015.

3. The Task Force had developed global joint programmes on cancer control, cervical cancer, mobile health and catalysing multisectoral action for non-communicable diseases, the latter in response to recommendations from the joint programming missions. Each joint programme was designed to provide catalytic technical support to increase national capacity and financing for national non-communicable disease response. There would be a window of opportunity over the coming two years to invest in scaling up action at the international and national levels, in order to achieve by 2030 the goal of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one third.

4. Properly financed, the broad range of expertise available within the Task Force could have a huge impact on health and development. Without additional financial support, the work of the Task Force in the field would be limited. Efforts must be increased in the coming year to move beyond normative guidance and raise resources to implement and replicate multisectoral action through joint programming at country level.

Draft resolution E/2016/L.16: United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

5. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation), introducing draft resolution E/2016/L.16, and speaking also on behalf of Belarus and Japan, said that the revitalization of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases was crucial to reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and meet relevant targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Russian Federation welcomed the establishment of two new thematic working groups, one on surveillance and one on road safety. The efforts of the Task Force had led a growing number of countries to include in their national development strategies programmes to prevent and control non-communicable diseases.

6. Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases were priorities in Russian domestic and foreign policy; the Russian Federation's national measures to reduce the burden caused by non-communicable diseases were among the most effective in the world. Over the past three years, in the framework of the relevant World Health Organization programmes, the Russian Federation had provided assistance in preventing non-communicable diseases to 24 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

7. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Council) said that Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, Serbia and South Africa had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

8. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. *Draft resolution E/2016/L.16 was adopted.*

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Social development (A/71/61-E/2016/7 and E/2016/26-E/CN.5/2016/5)

10. **Ms. Roy-Henriksen** (Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes (E/2016/7), said that a growing body of evidence indicated that in many countries, family policies contributed to poverty reduction. A focus on families was also part and parcel of efforts to ensure health, promote well-being and learning opportunities for people of all ages and advance gender equality and equal sharing of parental and family responsibilities, including through better work-family balance.

11. There was a need for legal reforms and improved enforcement of existing laws to change cultural and social norms and break the cycle of violence in families and societies.

12. **Mr. Jinga** (former Chair of the Commission for Social Development), introducing the report on the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development (E/2016/26-E/CN.5/2016/5), said that throughout the deliberations, speakers had noted that the Commission would have a critical role to play in contributing to the follow-up for the social pillar of sustainable development and in providing relevant policy guidance on the social development priorities identified in the 2030 Agenda.

13. In his address to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, the Secretary-General had reminded participants of their moral and political responsibility to ensure implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He had recalled that continued policy guidance by the Commission would be crucial to ending global poverty by 2030 and providing a life of dignity for all, on a healthy planet.

14. Improved understanding of the interaction between national and regional or international development strategies was needed. Countries must therefore identify mechanisms for refinement, coordination and regulation of strategies. Data collection was necessary to measure the impact of policies on poverty levels.

15. Leaving no one behind would involve identifying all different types of inequalities and their drivers. Promotion of the Decent Work Agenda was an important area for action. The Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth had suggested that the Commission could serve as a forum for discussion of youth issues relevant to all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. Persons with disabilities must be involved in all development efforts at all stages. There had been discussion of the role of the Commission in supporting a coherent and cohesive approach to the rights of persons with disabilities within the United Nations system, particularly in relation to monitoring and measuring progress. There had been a proposal to establish a standing forum on disabilities and development within the Commission or under the General Assembly. It had been proposed that the Economic and Social Council create a permanent space where United Nations agencies, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other mandate-holders could analyse progress in implementation of the Goals, coordinate efforts to ensure coherence of approaches and support States in reporting to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. There had also been a suggestion to establish a high-level technical panel to discuss implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring participation of all stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, academia, civil society organizations and local governments.

17. The Bureau had endeavoured to align the work of the Commission with that of the Council. The discussions held during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission would be highly relevant to the work of the Council. The Commission's resolution on its future organization and methods of work, which had been transmitted to the Council, was of particular relevance.

18. During the fifty-fourth session, it had become clear that innovative national policies and strategies to eradicate poverty and generate full and productive employment, fostering social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights, had generated positive outcomes. The Commission could therefore use its expertise to play a critical role as a forum contributing to follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission would continue to provide concrete policy guidance on inclusive sustainable development, poverty reduction, social

inclusion, social protection (including social protection floors), and increased participation.

19. **Mr. Rios Sánchez** (Observer for Mexico) said that in the context of sustainable development and assistance to families, modifications had been made to the Civil Code of Mexico, enabling judges to issue new birth certificates. For the purpose of passport issuance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would accept birth certificates registering a change in gender.

20. There was also a proposal to reform the Constitution, in line with a decision of the Supreme Court, to guarantee marriage equality without regard to ethnicity, social condition, disability, health condition, religion, gender or sexual preference.

21. It was important for the Commission to continue to examine its working methods in 2017, adapting them to the work of the Economic and Social Council. In electing a Chair for the next two years, the Commission should observe the principle of geographic representation.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-fourth session (E/2016/26-E/CN.5/2016/5)

22. **The President** invited the Council to take action on three draft resolutions contained in chapter I, section A, of the report (E/2016/26-E/CN.5/2016/5) and a draft decision contained in chapter I, section B.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

23. *Draft resolution I was adopted.*

Draft resolution II: Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

24. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Against:

Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstained:

None.

25. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 26 votes to 16, with no abstentions.**

Draft resolution III: Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world

26. *Draft resolution III was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session

27. *The draft decision was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

* The delegation of the Republic of Moldova subsequently informed the Council that it had intended to vote against the draft resolution.

United Nations E/2016/SR.29

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 June 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Second coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 29th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 3 June 2016, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Shava (Vice-President) ..... (Zimbabwe)

Contents

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

16-09090 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Mr. Shava (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (E/2016/56)

1. **Ms. Petrova** (Acting Secretary, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), introducing the annual overview report of the Chief Executives Board for 2015 (E/2016/56) and updating the Council on the key coordination activities undertaken by the Board in 2015 to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, said that the Board had contributed to the preparation of that Agenda by focusing on ways to deepen collaboration and enhance coherence across the United Nations system. It had established a set of common principles to provide guidance to the United Nations system in its support of Member States throughout the transition to and implementation of the integrated sustainable development agenda. The Board had also intensified its efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration with regard to specific sustainable development objectives and targets.

2. Considering that twenty years after the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth, youth employment remained a major global development challenge, the Board had endorsed the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, which built on the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth and aimed to facilitate increased impact and expanded country-level action on decent jobs for youth through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Seven United Nations agencies had formed a team to advance the operationalization of the Initiative, and the United Nations Development Group had already begun work on a guidance note for country-level action.

3. The Board had endorsed a United Nations system-wide approach to the utilization of new and emerging technologies and sources of data, in support of Member States' activities. The United Nations system data catalogue, a project developed under the auspices of the High-level Committee on Management, enhanced the public accessibility of United Nations system data and promoted open data among United Nations system organizations, thereby helping Member States in their decision-making.

4. In preparation for the 2030 Agenda, the Board had reviewed the implementation of six Millennium Development Goals in 16 countries and the Pacific island region. That review had helped to reinforce and improve coordination and coherence, and to increase harmonization and sharing of good practices. An equally flexible approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would be necessary.

5. The Board's three subsidiary bodies, namely the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group, had continued to work closely together to strengthen system-wide coordination. The High-level Committee on Programmes had pursued system-wide coordination efforts in support of additional Sustainable Development Goal targets and revised the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience. That Plan of Action emphasized local engagement and sought to ensure that the United Nations system was responsive to various country needs and contexts relating to disaster risk reduction. The Committee had also prepared a United Nations system input for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and a joint statement promoting an innovative, people-centred approach to sustainable urbanization, to be delivered at the Conference.

6. The Board had issued a joint statement to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As an additional contribution to that conference, the working group on climate change of the High-level Committee on Programmes had coordinated several side events, facilitated a "One United Nations" exhibition on key issues, and made available an updated compilation of the most recent and relevant United Nations publications on climate change, both on the Internet and in the form of sustainably sourced USB drives. In 2016, the Committee had approved a set of common core principles for a United Nations system-wide approach to climate action.

7. With regard to operational matters, the United Nations Development Group had continued to afford the highest priority to the coherent implementation of

the quadrennial comprehensive policy review across the United Nations system, with a particular focus on, inter alia, roll-out of the standard operating procedures in support of country teams and improvements in the Resident Coordinator system, national capacity development, development effectiveness and improved functioning of the United Nations development system. The Group had also established a task team to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in the Organization's operational activities. The team had begun a mapping exercise of good practices, a compilation of which had been published and was available through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

8. The High-Level Committee on Management had continued to give particular priority to the harmonization and simplification of business practices. It had, for example, started developing harmonized procurement guidance and continued to simplify vendor registration, leading to an increase in vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition; adopted a collaboration clause that allowed all participating United Nations system organizations to accept the outcome of another organization's procurement process, thereby avoiding duplication of internal processes; and supported the establishment of common banking agreements, which were expected to streamline banking and treasury services and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization's operations.

9. **Mr. Randin** (Switzerland) said that the Board's mandate to promote system-wide coherence and coordination, eliminate duplication and increase efficacy was all the more important in the light of the 2030 Agenda. Noting that the report was descriptive in nature and lacked detail on decisions taken and potential follow-up actions, he asked whether the Board had developed an action plan with targets and practical, results-based management working methods for the next couple of years.

10. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the efforts of the Board to foster innovative, pragmatic and effective solutions that enhanced United Nations system-wide coordination and performance. The core principles agreed by the Board's dedicated working group on the Sustainable Development Goals would help to reduce duplication and accelerate progress towards implementing the new development agenda. The data catalogue project would provide stakeholders with key information that would assist in their implementation efforts. Her delegation hoped that the regular reviews of country-level implementation of the Millennium Development Goals carried out by the Board and the World Bank would serve as a model of integrated coordination in efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. The updates to the Resident Coordinator competency framework and the new performance management system were a welcome development, in that they would help to enhance the collaboration, accountability and performance of United Nations country teams and their leaders. Lastly, the United States commended all the organizations of the United Nations system for fully implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, a critical benchmark that would allow the system to retain its credibility among donors and programme countries by holding it to the highest levels of accountability and transparency.

12. **Mr. Aguirre Vacchieri** (Chile) enquired whether the Board had discussed the need to take into account the new legal framework established by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He would also like to know how the Board intended to improve coordination in order to avoid duplication of effort and overlap in mandates.

13. **Ms. Petrova** (Acting Director, United Nations Chief Executives Board) said that the mandate of the Board's mandate was to align at a strategic level the work of the United Nations system in implementing the directives of Member States. The Board was not a decision-making entity; it only reaffirmed mandates and acted as a coordinating mechanism to ensure that those directives were followed. While the Board's annual overview report by definition could not provide the level of detail on actions taken or the tangible targets requested by the representatives of Switzerland and Chile, there were numerous networks and subgroups whose operations could be described in intricate detail.

14. The Board's three subsidiary bodies had published their highly detailed strategic work plans on their respective websites. For instance, the working group on climate change had been developing specific targets for several years, while a working group on risk management within the United Nations system would engage United Nations entities and define targets for

risk-informed decision-making throughout the system. Those and many other initiatives were well documented in the work plans of each specific group.

15. With regard to adjustments to the 2030 Agenda, the Board had decided to focus more on issues-based approaches. By and large, management work followed the same model, with specific targets in place to establish system-wide agreements on procurement, treasury and other areas of work. As the Board's members were themselves heads of organizations with reporting requirements and governing bodies of their own, they had to make sure that they aligned themselves with the mandates given by Member States. The focus of the Board's work was to address three types of issues: follow-up to international conferences and international initiatives that it was mandated to support; emerging issues that flowed out of decisions made by Member States; and global realities, such as migration. The Board did not have a predetermined workplan, because its work consisted of follow-up and mandated activities relating to such matters.

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits
(E/FFDF/2016/3)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

16. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the inaugural session of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2016/3) and to transmit the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations contained therein to the 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

17. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

18. **The President** said that the informal consultations on the venue and dates of future sessions of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters were ongoing and that the outcome would be announced in the next coordination and management meeting of the Council in July.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.